

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247634

62

ORIGIN EB-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 323

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, USGATT

SUBJ: GATT ALL FIBER TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CASEY

1. IN TWO CASES FRENCH APPEAR TO BE BUCKING REST OF EC IN HOLDING UP ACTIONS OTHERWISE ACCEPTABLE, AND WHICH INVOLVE OUR INTERESTS IN TRADE MATTERS. YOU MAY WANT BE AWARE OF THIS IN CONVERSATIONS YOU MAY HAVE WITH JOBERT TOMORROW.

2. FIRST ISSUE IS FRENCH LAST MINUTE ACTION TO ABORT SCHEDULED SIGNATURE YESTERDAY BY EC OF MULTI FIBERTEXTILE AGREEMENT AT GENEVA. (REF STATE 246946 TO USEC AND USEC 7368 REPLY BOTH INFO PARIS). FAILURE TO CONCLUDE TEXTILE AGREEMENT WILL BE BAD NEWS FOR MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. FRENCH POSITION CAUSED EC TO BACK OFF FROM SCHEDULED SIGNING OF TEXTILE AGREEMENT ALTHOUGH MANDATE OF NINE
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PAGE 02 STATE 247634

HAD AUTHORIZED FINALIZING OF AGREEMENT. PERHAPS THIS

IS PROCEDURAL AND WILL BE WORKED OUT, BUT YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT EBERLE HAS AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE BY US IN HOPE THAT EC SIGNATURE WILL FOLLOW TOMORROW. THIS IS AT SUGGESTION OF GATT SECRETARY GENERAL LONG. SEE ALSO PARIS 32377.

4. SECOND ISSUE IS FRENCH ATTITUDE IN TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE AT GENEVA, WHERE FRENCH WANT ALL AGRICULTURE MATTERS CONSIDERED ONLY IN AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, AND WHERE WE HAVE DIFFERENT VIEW. ALTHOUGH IT IS VIEW OF EC COMMISSION THAT US HAS DONE ITS BEST TO BE COOPERATIVE IN FINDING COMPROMISE, FRENCH POSITION MAKES IT SEEM UNLIKELY THAT MEETING OF EC TRADE MINISTER ON DECEMBER 21 WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE ISSUE. ISSUE IS NOT OF CURRENT URGENCY SINCE NO GOVERNMENT ACTUALLY PREPARED NEGOTIATE AS YET. FRENCH ARE NOT AS ISOLATED WITHIN COMMUNITY ON THIS ISSUE AS THEY ARE ON TEXTILE MATTER.

5. IN REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO EC CAPITALS TODAY ON TEXTILE TURNABOUT REACTION WE GET IS THAT FRENCH OPPOSITION TO WHAT REST OF EC NINE WANT TO DO IS ALL TOO FREQUENT. RUSH

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